

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for extending a telephone's capability comprising steps of:
2 enabling a telephone to store call-related data in memory
3 located within said telephone;
4 enabling a computer to alternatively store said call-related data
5 in memory located within said computer;
6 receiving first call-related data at said telephone;
7 recognizing that said first call-related data is to be stored in
8 memory;
9 determining, within said telephone, whether said first call-related
10 data will be stored in said telephone memory or said computer memory; and
11 storing said first call-related data in said telephone memory or
12 said computer memory based upon said determination.

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1 2. The method of claim 1 further including a step of establishing a direct data
connection between said telephone and said computer.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said telephone and said computer are
2 located within a common workspace, said step of establishing said direct data
3 connection being independent of providing connectivity for receiving said first.
4 call-related data.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said telephone is enabled to perform
2 telephone functions independently of said computer.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining includes steps of:
2 monitoring storage availability within said telephone memory;
3 comparing said monitored storage availability to a storage
4 threshold that is related to said telephone memory; and
5 storing said first call-related data in said computer memory
6 when said storage threshold related to said telephone memory is exceeded.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further including a step of retrieving call-related
2 data from said computer to said telephone in response to signals from said
3 telephone.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further including steps of:
2 enabling a first processor located within said telephone to
3 process data received at said telephone;
4 enabling a second processor located within said computer to
5 process data received at said telephone;
6 recognizing that said first call-related data received at said
7 telephone is to be processed; and
8 determining, within said telephone, whether said first call-related
9 data will be processed by said first processor or said second processor.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further including a step of utilizing a processor of
2 said computer to process at least a portion of said first call-related data in
3 response to instructions from said telephone.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further including a step of establishing a data con-
2 nection between said telephone and said computer by connecting said
3 telephone separately to a telephone network and to said computer.

1 10. An apparatus for extending the capability of a telephone comprising:
2 means, located within said telephone, for receiving data from a
3 telephone network;
4 means, located within said telephone, for storing said data
5 received from said telephone network;
6 means, operatively associated with said means for receiving,
7 for enabling said telephone to determine whether said data received at said
8 telephone will be maintained at said telephone or transferred to a computer;
9 and
10 means, operatively associated with said telephone, for trans-
11 ferring said data between said telephone and said computer.

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1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 further including:
2 means, located within said computer, for storing said data
3 received from said telephone; and
4 means, located within said telephone, for determining whether
5 data received at said telephone from said telephone network will be stored
6 within said telephone storage means or said computer storage means.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said telephone is connected
2 separately to said telephone network and said computer.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said computer lacks computer
2 telephony capability.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said means for enabling is located
2 within said telephone.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said means for enabling includes an
2 application programming interface resident within said telephone.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 10 further including:
2 means, located within said telephone, for processing said data
3 received from said telephone network;
4 means, located within said computer, for processing said data
5 received from said telephone; and
6 means, located within said telephone, for determining whether
7 said data received at said telephone from said telephone network will be
8 processed within said telephone processing means or said computer
9 processing means.

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1 17. A method of extending the capability of a telephone comprising the steps
2 of:

3 enabling a first processor resident in a telephone to process
4 data received at said telephone;

5 enabling a second processor resident in a computer to process
6 data received at said telephone;

7 receiving call-related data at said telephone;

8 recognizing that said call-related data requires further process-
9 ing;

10 determining, within said telephone, whether said call-related
11 data will be processed in said first processor or said second processor; and

12 processing said call-related data in either said telephone or said
13 computer based upon said determination.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further including a step of establishing a direct
2 data connection between said telephone and said computer, wherein said
3 telephone and said computer are located within a common workspace and
4 wherein said telephone is configured to perform telephone functions
5 independently of said computer.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further including steps of:

2 enabling said telephone to store data received at said telephone
3 in memory located within said telephone;

4 enabling said computer to store data received at said telephone
5 in memory located within said computer;

6 recognizing that said received call-related data is to be stored in
7 memory;

8 determining, within said telephone, whether said call-related
9 data will be stored in said telephone memory or said computer memory; and

10 storing said call-related data in said telephone memory or said
11 computer memory based upon said determination.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said steps of determining are performed
2 by an application programming interface residing within said telephone.